IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A communications system, comprising:

an information processing apparatus; and

an information management apparatus operable to manage playing positions of contents;

said information processing apparatus including:

playing means for playing content provided ~~from~~ ~~said information management apparatus~~ via a network;

first request means for requesting that said information management apparatus store a time stamp in association with predetermined identification information, while said content is played by said playing means, in response to an instruction that said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment be stored; and

second request means for transmitting said identification information to said information management apparatus and for requesting the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp, wherein

said identification information includes information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and

said playing means is operable to play said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with the request by said second request means; and

said information management apparatus including:

~~providing~~ management means for ~~providing~~managing the provision of said content to said information processing apparatus via said network; and

storing means for storing said time stamp in association with said identification information, wherein

said ~~providing~~management means is operable to ~~provide~~manage the provision of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp when said information processing apparatus transmits said identification information and requests the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp.

2.   (currently amended) A communication method in a communication system including an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus operable to manage playing positions of contents, the communication method comprising:

playing content provided ~~from said information management apparatus~~ via a network;

requesting that said information management apparatus store a time stamp in association with predetermined identification information during said playing step in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment;

transmitting said identification information to said information management apparatus and requesting the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp, said identification information including information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and said playing step ~~plays~~ playing said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said step of requesting the playing;

storing said time stamp in association with said identification information; and

~~providing~~managing the provision of said content to said information processing apparatus via said network from said playing position represented by said time stamp when said transmitting step transmits said identification information and

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said step of requesting the playing requests the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp.

3.   (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

playing means for playing content provided via a network ~~from an information management apparatus managing said content~~;

first request means for requesting that ~~the~~an information management apparatus <u>which manages playing positions of contents</u> store a time stamp in association with predetermined identification information, while said content is played by said playing means, in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment; and

second request means for transmitting said identification information to the information management apparatus and for requesting the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp, wherein

said identification information includes information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and

said playing means is operable to play said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with the request by said second request means.

4.   (currently amended) The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3,_wherein:

said first request means is operable to request that the information management apparatus stop ~~providing~~<u>the provision of</u> said content and store said time stamp upon issuance of an instruction to stop the playing of said content.

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5.   (cancelled)

6.   (previously presented) The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:

third request means for requesting that a viewing status information management apparatus that manages viewing status information store viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content,

wherein said second request means is operable to request the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said viewing status of said content represented by said viewing status information.

7.   (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

playing content provided ~~from an information management apparatus~~ via a network;

requesting that ~~the~~an information management apparatus which manages playing positions of contents store a time stamp in association with predetermined identification information during said playing step in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment; and

transmitting said identification information to the information management apparatus and requesting the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp, said identification information including information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and the playing step plays said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said step of requesting the playing.

8.   (currently amended)   A recording medium having recorded
therein a computer readable program for carrying out an
information processing method, said information processing
method comprising:

    playing content provided ~~from an information
management apparatus~~ via a network;

    requesting that ~~the~~an information management apparatus
which manages playing positions of contents store a time stamp
in association with predetermined identification information
during said playing step in response to an instruction to store
said time stamp representing a playing position of said content
at that moment; and

    transmitting said identification information to the
information management apparatus and requesting the playing of
said content from said playing position represented by said time
stamp, said identification information including information
allotted to each user and information allotted to each user
group, and the playing step plays said content from said playing
position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said
step of requesting the playing.

9.   (currently amended)   A system for processing information,
comprising:

    a processor operable to execute instructions; and

    instructions for carrying out an information
processing method, the information processing method including:

    playing content provided ~~from an information
management apparatus~~ via a network;

    requesting that ~~the~~an information management apparatus
which manages playing positions of contents store a time stamp
in association with predetermined identification information
during said playing step in response to an instruction to store

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said time stamp representing a playing position of said content
at that moment; and

      transmitting said identification information to the
information management apparatus and requesting the playing of
said content from said playing position represented by said time
stamp, said identification information including information
allotted to each user and information allotted to each user
group, and the playing step plays_said content from said playing
position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said
step of requesting the playing.

10. (currently amended) An information management apparatus,
comprising:

      ~~providing~~ management means for ~~providing~~ managing the
provision of predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus via a network; and

      storing means for storing a time stamp in association
with predetermined identification information in accordance with
a request from the information processing apparatus, said time
stamp representing a playing position of said content provided
~~by said providing means~~ via said network, wherein

      said ~~providing~~ management means is operable to
~~provide~~ manage the provision of said content from the playing
position represented by said time stamp when the information
processing apparatus transmits said identification information
and requests that said content be played from the playing
position represented by said time stamp.

11. (currently amended) The information management apparatus
as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

      viewing status information storing means for storing
viewing status information representing a viewing status of said

content in accordance with a request from the information
processing apparatus,

wherein said ~~providing~~management means is operable to
~~provide~~manage the provision of said content from the playing
position represented by said time stamp when the viewing status
of said content represented by the viewing status information
indicates that said content has not been played to the end.

12.   (previously amended) An information management method,
comprising:

providing predetermined content to an information
processing apparatus via a network; and

storing a time stamp in association with predetermined
identification information in accordance with a request from the
information processing apparatus, said time stamp representing a
playing position of said content provided by said providing
step, wherein

said providing step provides said content from the
playing position represented by said time stamp when the
information processing apparatus transmits said identification
information and requests that said content be played from the
playing position represented by said time stamp.

13.   (previously presented) A recording medium having recorded
therein a computer readable program for carrying out an
information management method, the information management method
comprising:

providing predetermined content to an information
processing apparatus via a network; and

storing a time stamp in association with predetermined
identification information in accordance with a request from the
information processing apparatus, said time stamp representing a

playing position of said content provided by said providing step, wherein

said providing step provides said content from the playing position represented by said time stamp when the information processing apparatus transmits said identification information and requests that said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp.

14. (previously presented) A system for managing information, comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and

instructions for carrying out an information management method, the information management method including:

providing predetermined content to an information processing apparatus via a network; and

storing a time stamp in association with predetermined identification information in accordance with a request from the information processing apparatus, said time stamp representing a playing position of said content provided by said providing step, wherein

said providing step provides said content from the playing position represented by said time stamp when the information processing apparatus transmits said identification information and requests that said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp.